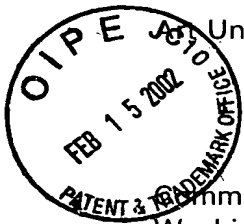


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Kiyoshi AKUTAGAWA
Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR
DETECTING ROAD WHITE LINE
FOR AUTOMOTIVE VEHICLE
Appl. No.: 09/987,258
Filing Date: 11/14/2001
Examiner: Unassigned

Art Unit: 2621

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO-1449 is a listing of documents known to Applicant in order to comply with Applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

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TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), before the mailing date of first Office Action on the merits, and within three (3) months of the mailing date of the foreign search report.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

The foregoing documents came to the Applicant's attention during a search of the corresponding European application. A copy of the European Search Report setting forth the portion of each reference considered relevant by the Examiner is attached.

An English translation of Document A3 is not readily available. However, the absence of such translation does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted foreign language document (37 CFR §1.98 and MPEP§609). An English language abstract is attached.

Applicant respectfully requests that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO-1449 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

STATEMENT


The undersigned hereby states in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1) that each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to filing of this Statement.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise

improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date FEB 15 2002

By 

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Form PTO-1449
(MODIFIED)U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTY. DOCKET NO.

040679-1393

SERIAL NO.

09/987,258

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

(Use several sheets if necessary)

APPLICANT

Kiyoshi AKUTAGAWA

FILING DATE

11/14/2001

GROUP ART UNIT

2621

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
	A1	0 827 127	March 4, 1998	EPO				
	A2	1 035 509	Sept. 13, 2000	EPO				
	A3	199 18 050	Nov. 4, 1999	Fed. Rep. of Germany				Abstract

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	A4	Katsuyuki, "White Line Detecting Device," Patent Abstracts of Japan, Publication No. 09190537, Published July 22, 1997.
	A5	Zerubia et al., "Mean Field Annealing for Edge Detection and Image Restoration," Signal Processing V: Theories and Applications, Vol. 2, Conf. 5 (September 18, 1990), pp. 837-840.
	A6	Kawazoe, "Edge Extraction and Restoration of Noisy Image by Innovation Process in Kalman Filter," Electronics and Communications in Japan, Vol. 71, No. 10 (October 1, 1988), pp. 26-33.

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

* EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include any copy of this form with next communication to applicant.